

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action mailed August 27, 2007. Claim 38 is cancelled, claim 1 is amended, and new claims 39 and 40 are added. Claims 1-14, 37 and 39-40 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 37-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten independent claim 1 so as to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 38. As acknowledged by the Examiner, that claim is patentably distinct from the prior art, and is now in a condition for allowance. Moreover, for at least the same reason, claims now depending from claim 1 – namely, claims 2-14 and 38 – are also in a condition for allowance.

Similarly, new independent claims 39 and 40 have been written to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 37 and 6 respectively, including all the limitations of the base claim. As acknowledged by the Examiner, claims 39 and 40 are now in a condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1-14, 37 and 39-40 are now pending in view of the above amendments, and all are patentably distinct from the prior art. Allowance of each of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 27th day of December, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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